

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 080082  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 NEA-10 PM-05 SP-02  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 IO-13 DODE-00 L-03  
PA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /086 R

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APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP  
AF/E:RPOST

-----018080 290352Z /70

O R 290258Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE  
INFO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

S E C R E T STATE 080082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PEPR, ET, SO, DJ, US

SUBJECT: PROTEST ON ETHIOPIAN STATEMENTS RE US MOTIVES  
ON THE HORN

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 1435; B. ADDIS ABABA 1434;  
C. STATE SEPTTEL

1. DEPT. UNABLE MAKE PROTEST TO ETHIOPIAN CHARGE PER  
SEPTTEL AS HE WAS DESCRIBED BY EMBASSY AS QUITE ILL.
2. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD DELIVER WRITTEN PROTEST SOONEST  
TO MOFA CONTAINING FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE ETHIOPIAN  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATEMENT OF MARCH 25 CON-  
CERNING DJIBOUTI. THE UNITED STATES GREETES WITH PLEASURE  
THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THAT STATEMENT WHICH STATES:

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"ETHIOPIA CONSIDERS THE CONTINUED INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI, AS IT IS PRESENTLY CONSTI-  
TUTED, TO BE VITAL FOR THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE  
HORN OF AFRICA. ETHIOPIA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CARDINAL  
PRINCIPLES OF THE UN AND OAU CHARTERS AND NONALIGNED  
MOVEMENT AND IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FREEDOM-LOVING  
PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI, AFRICA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD,

WILL DO EVERYTING POSSIBLE TO SEE TO IT THAT THE INDEPEND-

ENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF DJIBOUTI IS PRESERVED." THE UNITED STATES HEARTILY ENDORSES THE ETHIOPIAN POSITION AND REAFFIRMS ITS WELL-KNOWN SUPPORT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI.

WE WERE VERY DISTRESSED, ON THE OTHER HAND, AT THE ACCUSATIONS CONTAINED ELSEWHERE IN THE MOFA STATEMENT. OUR POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL AFRICAN NATIONS HAS BEEN CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE OGADEN CRISIS. DJIBOUTI WAS NOT MENTIONED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 10 ONLY BECAUSE SOMALIA CLEARLY INDICATED A COMMITMENT TO RESPECT DJIBOUTI'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE AT THE TIME THAT THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI CHOSE INDEPENDENCE. THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WAS MADE IN TERMS OF TWO COUNTRIES WHICH WERE PERCEIVED TO BE UNDER ACTIVE THREAT OF SOMALI ACTIONS. OUR CHARGE IN ADDIS ABABA HAS CLEARLY REASSURED MOFA OFFICIALS SINCE MARCH 16 THAT DJIBOUTI WAS INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF COUNTRIES WHOSE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WE EXPECTED SOMALIA TO COMMIT ITSELF TO HONOR. THEREFORE, WE MUST PROTEST THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 25 AS IRRESPONSIBLE AND INFLAMMATORY.

WE ARE FURTHER CHAGRINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED  
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ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPEATED ON MARCH 28 THE CHARGES THAT US WAS PLOTTING TO HAND OVER DJIBOUTI TO SOMALIA. THE PRESS SPOKESMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD ALREADY DENIED ON MARCH 25 THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ALLEGING THAT THE FOCAL POINT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD MOOSE AND SIAD BARRE IN MOGADISCIO WAS A CONSPIRACY TO ALLOW SOMALIA TO TAKE OVER DJIBOUTI. THE SPOKESMAN REPEATED THE AMERICAN POSITION IN FAVOR OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF ALL AFRICAN NATIONS, INCLUDING DJIBOUTI. REPETITIONS OF ACCUSATIONS OF THIS SORT IN THE PRESS DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS OR TO DEVELOPING THE RELATIONSHIP OF CONFIDENCE AND MUTUAL RESPECT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR ITS PART, SEEKS.

3. AFTER YOU HAVE NOTIFIED US WHEN PROTEST DELIVERED, DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE IN WASHINGTON THAT IT WAS MADE. COOPER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Reference:** 78 ADDIS ABABA 1435, 78 ADDIS ABABA 1434  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROTEST ON ETHIOPIAN STATEMENTS RE US MOTIVES ON THE HORN  
**TAGS:** PINS, PEPR, ET, SO, DJ, US  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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